

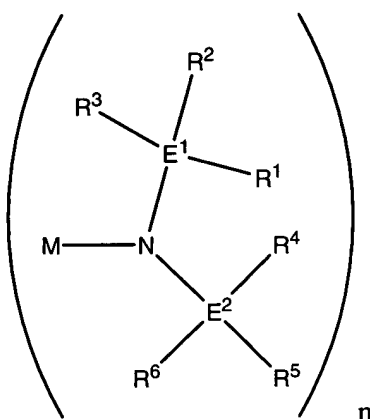
Amendments to the claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

Claim 1. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 13, said compound being a liquid at a temperature of 20°C.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The composition as in claim 1, wherein the liquid alkali metal amide has the formula



where M is an alkali metal; E¹ and E² may be the same or different and are tetravalent atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon, germanium or tin, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ may be the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups, fluoroalkyl groups or alkyl groups substituted by other atoms or groups, wherein at least one of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ contains more than one carbon atom, and wherein one or more carbons may be replaced by an isoelectronic species, and n is a number equal to or greater than one.

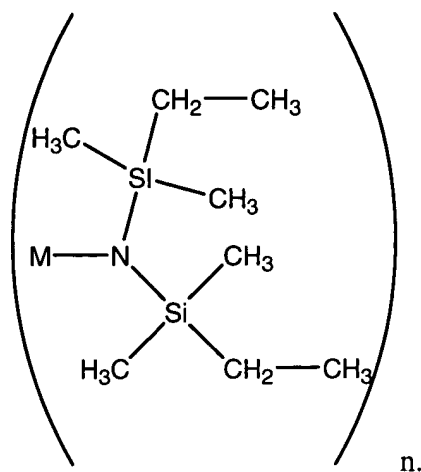
Claim 3. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the groups R¹ and R⁴ contain between two and eight carbons and may be the same or different.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2 or 3, wherein the groups R^2 , R^3 , R^5 and R^6 contain less than three carbons and may be the same or different.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the E1 and E2 are selected from the group consisting of carbon and silicon and may be the same or different.

Claim 6. (currently amended) ~~The A composition for use in the formation of alkali metal-containing materials comprising an alkali metal and an amide ligand of claim 2,~~ wherein the amide ligand is formed from an amine selected from the group consisting of bis(n-octyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(n-hexyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(n-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(isobutyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(n-propyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(n-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(iso-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(n-propyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-butyl(n-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(isopropyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(ethyldimethylsilyl)amine, bis(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(ethyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-butyl(n-propyldimethylsilyl)amine, tert-amyl(trimethylsilyl)amine, tert-butyl(ethyldimethylsilyl)amine, and tert-amyl-tert-butylamine.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein the~~ A composition for use in the formation of alkali metal-containing materials comprising an alkali metal amide having has the formula,



Claim 8. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali metal is sodium.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkali metal is potassium.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 2 or 7, wherein n is in the range of 2 to 3.

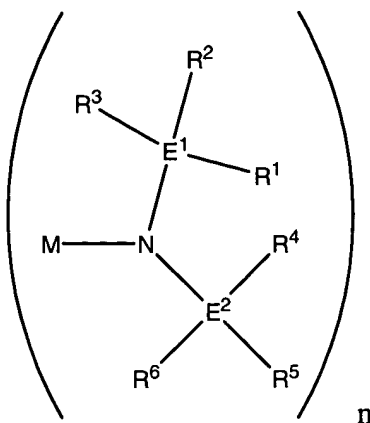
Claim 12. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the liquid has a viscosity at 40°C in the range of about 200-1000 cP.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) A composition for use in the formation of alkali metal-containing materials, comprising:

a compound of an alkali metal and an amide ligand, said compound being a liquid at a temperature of less than about 70°C.

Claims 14-22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (New) A composition for use in the formation of alkali metal-containing materials comprising a liquid alkali metal amide having the formula



where M is an alkali metal; E¹ and E² may be the same or different and are tetravalent atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon, germanium or tin, and R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ may be the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups, fluoroalkyl groups or alkyl groups substituted by other atoms or groups, wherein at least one of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ contains more than one carbon atom, and wherein one or more carbons may be replaced by an isoelectronic species, and n is a number equal to or greater than one,

and wherein the number of angular variables of the amide in excess of those present in the reference bis(trimethylsilyl)amine is two or more.

Claim 24. (New) The composition of claim 23, wherein the number of angular variables of the amide ligand is three or more.

Claim 25. (New) The composition of claim 23 or 24, wherein E¹=E²=Si.